

FINANCIAL REPORT – As of February 22, 2016

Offerings & Needs (Budget for 2016)

Needed For Mission, Ministry, & Administration.....	\$600,000.00
Received for Mission, Ministry, & Administration toward Yearly Goal.....	\$86,983.84
Weekly Consistent Need to reach the Yearly Goal.....	\$11,659.46
Amount given on 02-21-2016.....	\$11,605.78

Building Fund

Balance in Building fund.....	\$4,238,604.61
Amount given on 02-21-2016.....	\$7,914.67

1. The amount needed by the last Sunday in 2016 should be an aggregate total of our financial needs including Conference Apportionments as well as all other needs.
2. The Amount Received should be the aggregate total of funds received for budgetary purposes.
3. The Consistent Weekly Need to reach the Yearly Goal will change each week depending upon the amount of weeks left as offset by the gifts received.

CHURCH STAFF

James Adair	Custodian
Sylvia Beard	Pianist
Sandra Casper	Financial Secretary
Suzanne Clegg	Director of Adult Ministry
Rev. Dr. Sondra R. Jones	Senior Pastor
Cindy LaTouf	Office Manager
Leandre Majerus	Director of Preschool Ministry
Hank Morgan	Organist
Mark Ridings	Director of Music and the Arts
Susan Rosenthal	Director of Children & Family Ministry
Bradley Trammell	Accompanist for Children and Youth
Micah Wright	Director of Youth Ministry

March Missions

Prayer Calendar: The Mission Committee has created a Prayer Calendar for the month of March. The calendar is on the back of the March Calendar as well as in the church narthex. **Please pray faithfully for these missions.**



The **Blood Drive** on March 13th is in memory of **Olivia Ouimet**. Join with us in honoring the memory of Olivia, and in helping others! Sign up to give at the Life South bus in the church parking lot between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM on Sunday, March 13th.

Register to give by using this Sign Up Genius link:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4fa8ac28a0f49-inmemory>

Allergy & Asthma: With respect and concern for persons who suffer from allergies and asthma, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne on Sunday morning. For those who have allergic reactions to fragrances, this can cause extreme respiratory stress. Thank you for your consideration for the health and wellbeing of others.



The Connection

To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World



To shine the light of Jesus so that children, youth, and adults grow in the knowledge and love of God through missions, evangelism, worship, nurture, and Christian education.

The Weeks of March 1, 2016 – March 31, 2016

Vol. 28 / No. 3

Easter Egg Hunt

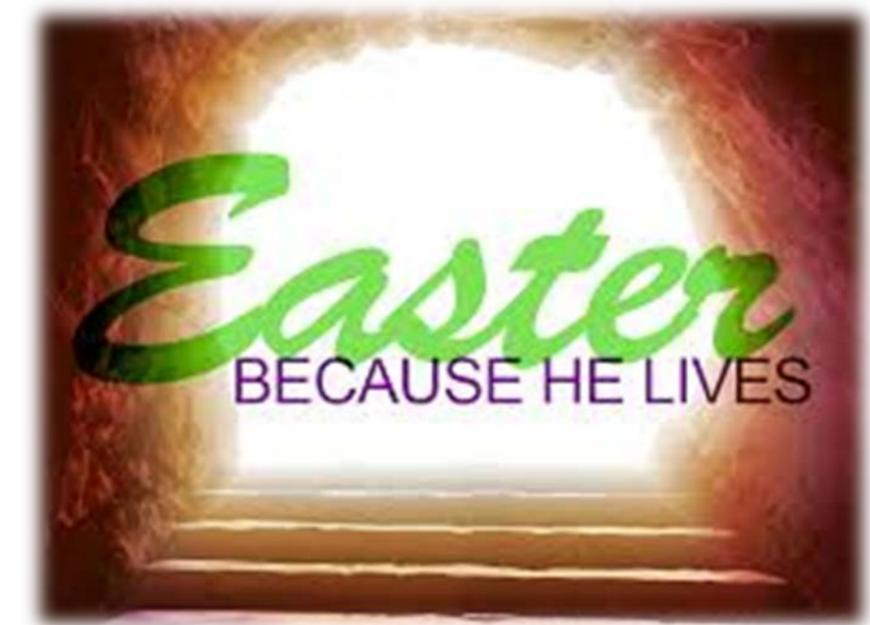


We would love to have you join us on March 19th for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. All the children are invited for a day of Easter fun! We will have 3 age appropriate egg hunt areas, a special story, snacks, and a visit from the Easter Bunny.

The egg hunt will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Garrett's Farm located at 4101 Thompson Mill Road, Buford GA.

We need a few more items for our event so if you would like to donate a Hobby Lobby or Walmart gift card to help with supplies, we would appreciate it!

If you would like to volunteer to help at the egg hunt, please email Susan Rosenthal at children.director@bufordfirstumc.org.



Please join us for Holy Week and Easter

Sunday, March 20th | Palm Sunday

"Can't Keep Quiet" | Luke 19:28-40

8:45 a.m. "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" - Family Choir

11:00 a.m. "Palm Sunday" - Combined Choirs

"O Thou Eternal Christ, Ride On!" - Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 24th | Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

Holy Communion and Various Scripture Lessons

Music for the Lenten season - Chancel Choir

Sunday, March 27th | Easter Celebration

"Because He Lives" | John 20:1-18

8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. "Joy in the Morning" - Chancel Choir & Youth Choir
Brass Quartet, Timpani and Organ

Return Service Requested

*Buford First United Methodist Church
285 East Main Street, P.O. Box 329
Buford, Georgia 30515-0329
770-945-7438 ~ www.bufordfirstumc.org
Preschool 770-945-4161*

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Buford, GA
Permit No. 26**

A Word From The Pastor

This Easter, I want us to truly celebrate the resurrection of Jesus as we recall the words of a great hymn, familiar to so many. Yes, we can claim the victory and the hope of Jesus. No matter what we are going through, He lives and we can face tomorrow. Life is worth living. Celebrate Jesus this Easter and rejoice because He is risen!

Because He Lives

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus;
He came to love, heal, and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

Chorus
Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
And feel the pride and joy he brings;
But greater still the calm assurance:
This child can face uncertain days because He Lives!

And then one day I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives!

because
HE lives,
I can
face
tomorrow...
because He lives all
fear is gone!

Love and Peace,
Pastor Sondra

Thank you for your donations in memory and in honor of friends and loved ones.

*A donation has been given in memory of Heather Beard Blalock by: Phillip and Sylvia Beard, and Tommy and Donna Grant.

*A donation has been given in memory of Marnie Braswell by: Jo Yancey.

*A donation has been given in memory of Dan Pirkle, W.R. (Dudge) Pruitt by: Tommy and Donna Grant.

*A donation has been given in memory of Sue Ann Terry Bullock by: Mike and Mary Lou O'Rouke, Pat Stanley, and Addamae Akin.

*A donation has been given in memory of Mrs. Rowena Jones by: Pat Stanley and Evelyn Hudson.

*A donation has been given in memory of Daryl Studeman by: Dwight and Sandra Burgess, Paul and Brenda Remke, Rick and Marsha Huckaby, Harry and Martha Wilkins, Rev. Walter and Dr. Sondra Jones, Richard and Sarah Lord, Al and Pam Kocher, Donnie and Linda McQuaig, Mrs. Terry Ellis, Cecil and Mary Pearce, Warren and Margaret Marx, Greg and Christine Hood, Bruce and Patti Robinson, Wayne and Barbara Kennedy, and the Beacon Sunday School Class, the UMW, and Sherrie Zebrasky.

*A donation has been given in honor of Suzanne Clegg and the Stephen Ministry by: Tommy and Donna Grant.

*A donation has been given in honor of Cliff, Tracey, Sydney, and Grace Yancey and Rick Braswell by: Jo Yancey.

*A donation has been given in honor of Mike Casper and Celina Countess by: Jim and Meredith Holt.

*A donation has been given in honor of Sandra Casper by: Rick and Marsha Huckaby.

*A donation has been given in honor of the Beacon Sunday School Class by: Leanna Brown.

*A donation has been given in honor of Linda McQuaig by: the Exercise Class.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, March 6th

Give so the United Methodist Committee on Relief can maintain its extensive mission to those suffering from manmade or natural disasters. This offering, taken world-wide, will pay for the operations of UMCOR, so 100% of all other gifts will be used only for mission.

Community Supper is Wednesday, March 30th! This is a free meal, provided by the New Spirit and Cornerstone Sunday School Classes. Everyone is welcome! Plan to join us at 6:00 PM for some good food and warm fellowship.



New Member Luncheon All those new to Buford First UMC are invited to stay for lunch following the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, March 20th. The Church Board and the Confirmation Class will be staying to eat as well. We want to celebrate our new members and welcome them into the fellowship of BFUMC! Please contact Suzanne Clegg, Director of Adult Ministry, if you can attend, 770-945-7438, or adultministry@bufordfirstumc.org **Join us!**

Effie Wood Circle will hold their next meeting on March 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Beacon Sunday School Classroom. Our guest speaker will be Kim Phillips, Executive Director of the North Gwinnett Co-op. All women are invited to come join us.

Music Ministry

Why do Christians sing when they are together?

The reason is, quite simply, because in singing together it is possible for them to speak and pray the same Word at the same time; in other words, because here they can unite in the Word. There should be singing, not only at devotions, but at regular times of the day or week. The more we sing, the more joy will we derive from it. But above all, the more devotion and discipline and joy we put into our singing, the richer will be the blessing that will come to the whole life of the fellowship from singing together. It is not you that sings, it is the Church that is singing, and you, as a member of the Church, may share in its song. Thus all singing together that is right must serve to widen our spiritual horizon and make us see our little company as a member of the great Christian Church on earth, and help us willingly and gladly to join our singing, be it feeble or good, to the song of the Church.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)

ATTENTION SENIORS!

Graduation is coming up and we want to be here for you!

Please pick up a Graduate Information Form from the Youth Table so we can recognize you in the Sunday Morning Service and at our Graduation Banquet!

Additionally, we have three different scholarships available to help you with your college experience! There are two offered by the church and one offered by the Florence Garner Circle. All applications can be found on the youth table in the Fellowship Hall.

CONGRATS!



VBS 2016 "Surf Shack"
Catch the Wave of
God's Amazing Love
June 6th - 10th, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p. m

All children ages 3 through 5th grade are welcome!
(All children must potty trained)

Registration opens on March 1st. Register before April 30th, for Early Discount fee of \$10 per child, After April 30th, regular registration is \$15 per child. **Registration deadline is May 13th - No Walk Up registrations will be accepted.**

Registration forms will be available in the narthex, on the website, and in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in volunteering at VBS this year, please email Susan at children.director@bufordfirstumc.org.

Youth Ministry

Children & Family Ministry

March Preschool Happenings:

- 1st: Preschool Staff Meeting
- 1st-3rd: Dr. Seuss Week
- 9th+10th: Spring and Graduation Pictures
- 14th-17th: Teacher Appreciation Week
- 17th: Wear Green to School
- 21st: Fire Drill
- 23rd+24th: Easter Egg Hunts
- 30th: **100th Day of School**/Pirate and Princess Day

Looking for a few "Sound" minds!

We are looking to add a couple of folks to the sound mixing team. This involves running the sound mixing for worship services and, occasionally, special events. With a full team, we usually schedule each person no more than once or twice a month. Our system is relatively simple so if you have any experience with sound systems or other audio equipment it wouldn't be difficult to learn. If you would like to join in or wish to discuss the requirements in more detail, please contact Greg Jones at gwi57@charter.net or call at 770-378-5336.



Young at Heart
Tuesday, March 15th
Stations of the Cross
Covington FUMC

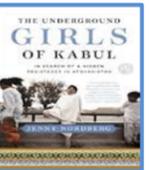
Stations of the Cross is the powerful story of the journey Jesus took to the cross. Each Station has an interactive element that helps you reflect on how this journey relates to your life. Let's experience and start to prepare for Easter. We will be leaving at 8:30 A.M. Cost \$3.00 for the van gas. You may give a Love Offering at the church if you would like. RSVP by March 7th with Debbie Atcheson or Pam Kocher. Lunch is on your own at the Mystic Grill.

Buford Aid Project

We need youth and adults to help!
Saturday, March 12th, 9:00a - 2:00p
Sign up to help on the Mission Bulletin Board! We'll be raking and doing yard clean-up, and some home repair for some of our neighbors! Help us serve others. Bring a rake, glove, clippers, and a sack lunch.

Ladies Book Club

We'll meet at Panera Bread, 7:00 PM on March 8th to discuss *The Underground Girls of Kabul*.



We will be discussing the first half of this book that is the fascinating story of how some Afghani girls are being raised as boys to escape the prejudice toward females in that country. Please try to arrive a bit early to order your food and get settled prior to 7:00. Call Sue Jones with any questions at 770-932-2202.